

# WARDEN SHOT DOWN

DEPUTY WAGNER AND GUIDE  
HEILMAN KILLED.

THREE CONVICTS MAKE ESCAPE

Explosives Used to Open Prison Gates—  
Mutineers Escape After Desperate Slaughter—Storm  
Prevents Pursuit.

The men who died and men wounded at their posts of duty.  
WARDEN JAMES DELAHUNTY.  
DEPUTY WARDEN HENRY WAGNER.  
USHER E. G. HEILMAN.  
The wounded:  
Thomas J. Doody.

Warden James Delahanty, Deputy Warden Henry Wagner and Usher E. G. Heilman are dead, and Thomas J. Doody, west cell house keeper, is badly wounded as the result of a battle with



WARDEN JAMES DELAHUNTY  
Who Was Killed by Escaped Convicts.

three convicts at the state penitentiary at 2:15 Thursday afternoon, and the three convicts who committed the murders blew the lock off of one door and made their escape.

All of the men killed died at their posts of duty and fought to the end in an attempt to prevent the escape of the convicts. Deputy Warden Wagner was the first killed, being shot as he stood in his office. Mr. Heilman, the second man killed, was hit as he rushed out of the warden's office at the first report of the shots. Warden Delahanty was killed in the door of his office after firing three shots at the onrushing men. He was struck first in the right hip, but continued to fight until a second shot struck him in the right breast, when he sank to the floor and soon expired.

Thomas J. Doody, the wounded man, has good chances of recovery, though it is possible that he may lose his leg. He was shot twice, in the left arm and right leg, during the first part of the attack when the three men concentrated their shots on him while in the chapel room of the prison.

The men who escaped are Charles Taylor, alias Shorty Gray, alias Murray, alias Rogers, who is a three-termer, leader of a gang of bank robbers and was sentenced from Aurora to twenty-eight years' imprisonment for robbing a bank at Giltner; John Dowd, recently sentenced from Cass county to twenty years for burglary with high explosives, having robbed a jewelry store at Louisville, Neb.; and Charles Morley, sentenced from Omaha to fifteen years for highway robbery.

Immediately after the escape of the prisoners the governor's office was notified and Sheriff Myers with a posse and most of the Lincoln police force rushed to the scene. Later company F, Second regiment, of the national guard arrived.

Sheriff Myers took charge of the prisoners upon his arrival and after swearing in deputies and arming them, stationed armed men at the doors to guard while the prisoners were marched to their cells. The sheriff, accompanied by one deputy and one guard, all unarmed for fear of being overpowered and losing their weapons, then entered the prison yard and one by one the shops were emptied and the prisoners marched to the cell house and locked in their cells.

Where Convicts Taylor, Dowd and Morley secured their weapons, ammunition and explosives is unknown, but the general supposition among the guards is that they were smuggled in on the "underground" route by trustees from pals of Gray and Dowd on the outside. All three were fully armed and plentifully supplied with ammunition. Although no one knows how many revolvers the men had, it is probable that from the number of shots fired by them they were supplied with two each.

Turnkey Claus Pahl was unarmed when he heard the shots. Rushing to grab his revolver he returned to the window between his room and the chapel. There he was covered by one man, who shot as Pahl dodged and ran to the door, where he was again cov-

ered, and forced to hug the wall for protection. The explosion then followed and the three rushed in and forced the turnkey into a corner, where they struck him. Taking his keys they ran to the only locked door between them and liberty.

The attack made was evidently well planned. They crossed the yard within the walls and there was nothing in their attitude to warn the guards that they meant trouble. As each neared the chapel guard, stationed in the balcony above the south door of the chapel, he raised his hand—the recognized signal of a prisoner on peaceful errand. Entering the chapel, the men covered the negro trusty, Thomas, who stood with his hands raised during the encounter. One convict then went to the office of Deputy Warden Wagner and shot him twice in the abdomen.

Heilman, on hearing the shooting, rushed from the warden's office and looked through the doors toward the chapel. He was struck in the left side below the heart by two bullets, and staggered back to the office, where he was assisted to a chair by Bookkeeper T. J. Ward. Warden Delahanty had rushed to the door of his office and opened fire on the onrushing men. Three shots were fired by him, none taking effect. He was struck in the hip, but continued to fire until another bullet pierced his breast, when he fell and almost immediately expired.

Rewards Offered.  
State rewards aggregating \$2,100 were offered Friday morning for the capture of the convict murderers, dead or alive.  
The state law limits the reward to

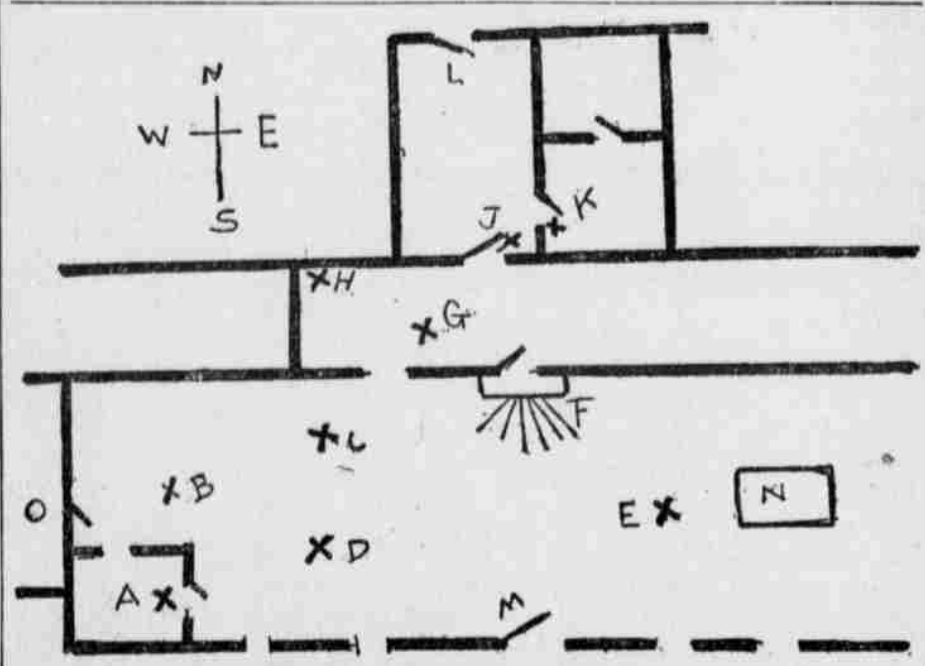


DIAGRAM OF SCENE OF BATTLE.  
Ground floor of the state penitentiary, showing chapel, turnkey's room, corridor and offices in which the fight took place.  
A—Where Deputy Warden was killed.  
B—Guard Doody during the fusillade.  
C—Convict Gray.  
D—Convict Dowd.  
E—Convict Morley.  
F—Chapel door blown open by convicts.  
G—Turnkey Pahl during fusillade.  
H—Where turnkey beaten and robbed.  
J—Door leading into corridor.  
K—Where Warden Delahanty was killed.  
L—North door of penitentiary.  
M—South door of prison.  
N—Rostrum in the prison chapel.  
O—West cell house.

\$200 for the crime of murder, but the board of public lands and buildings held a meeting and decided to ask the governor to offer \$200 for each of the three men killed.

This he did later in a special proclamation. Each of the trio of escaped desperadoes is held responsible for killing all three of the prison officials. The reward on this account, therefore, will aggregate \$600 for any one of the murderers, or \$1,800 for all of them.

The state law also permits the warden of the penitentiary to offer a reward of \$100 for the return of an escaped convict. R. W. Myers, as acting warden, has announced this reward, upon a suggestion from the board of public lands and buildings.

The Woman in the Case.  
A most interesting development is the discovery that Mrs. May Woodworth of Kansas City, friend of "Shorty" Gray, as Charles Taylor was known when he was the leader of the most desperate band of bank robbers



CHARLES TAYLOR

that infested the middle west, was in Lincoln during the past week.

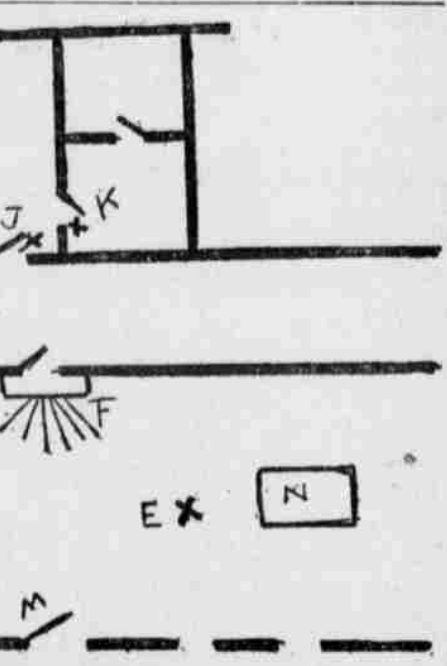
Mrs. Woodworth, who called herself Brown while in Lincoln, went to the penitentiary to see Taylor last Sunday. It is said that she was refused permission to visit him. Some time Wednesday she received a message, as a result of which she told Mrs. Parks that she had to go home.

Feed Men in Cells.  
Attorney E. J. Maggi arrived at the prison soon after the affair became public. He talked with the governor and was placed by him in charge of the kitchen. At first it had been decided to allow the convicts to go unfed that evening, as it was thought to be unsafe to allow them to leave the cells. Maggi finally secured arrangements for feeding the men in the cells, the only ones to eat at the tables being the help on the farm and in the kitchen, a number of the officers at the prison and the guards.

May Break Up "Trusty" System.  
The material used in blowing up the door, whether dynamite, nitro-glycerine or fulminating caps, and the revolvers were smuggled into the prison from the outside by trustees, according to the statement of the prison officials. It is possible the outbreak may result in the abolition of the "trusty" system, at least to the extent of stopping all communication with the outside world.

When the first news of the affair reached Lincoln it was rumored that from one to thirteen men had been killed, that 300 men had escaped, and a general mutiny had occurred, and other alarming features were added. Many of the officers who hastened to the scene went under the impression that they might encounter an entire prison in arms.

Are All Desperate Men.  
Convicts Taylor, Dowd and Morley were considered among the most desperate men confined in the prison. All had served previous sentences. Convict Charles Taylor, probably the leader of the desperate attempt to escape, is considered as one of the most dangerous criminals operating



CHARLES MORLEY

in the middle west. He is better known under the name of "Shorty" Gray and had other aliases of Murray and Rogers. Gray was received at the penitentiary August 22, 1911, from Aurora, on a twenty-eight-year sentence for blowing the bank at Giltner last summer. He is about forty-four years of age, five feet four inches in



CHARLES MORLEY

height and weighed 135 pounds. He was of light complexion, had brown hair and blue eyes.

Taylor, in company with Harry Forbes and John Martin, was arrested on an island in the Platte river a few days following the Giltner bank robbery. The men at the time were unarmed and had no money with them, but the sheriff's posse traced them from the robbery to the scene where they were captured.

They were confined in the Aurora jail, but after arraignment were brought to the state penitentiary to be held for safe keeping until the trial. In August they were sentenced by Judge Cochran to twenty-eight years. Knowing that the three were dangerous, all possible precautions were taken by the officers in bringing them to and from the penitentiary.

Taylor has served previous sentences at the Nebraska, Minnesota and Iowa state prisons.

John Dowd, the second of the trio, is a bank robber from Cass county. He was received at the penitentiary the 3d of last month on an indeterminate sentence of from twenty years to life. He is six feet and one-eighth

of an inch in height, weighs 160 pounds, is of light complexion and has light brown hair and brown eyes. Dowd gave his home as Aberdeen, S. D., where he has brothers and sisters now living. His parents are dead. He is twenty-five years of age.

Dowd is thought to be one of a gang of bank robbers operating over the state, with headquarters at Omaha. He was arrested in Omaha last fall and was arraigned on the charge of blowing the safe of a jewelry store at Louisville, Neb. The night previous to the Louisville robbery, bank robbers made an unsuccessful attempt to blow the bank safe at Wabash. It was thought that Dowd was one of the men implicated in this robbery. Taylor and Dowd were cell mates at the prison and no doubt the plan to escape was worked out by them and Morley, who was later taken into the scheme.

Charles Morley, the third one in the trio, was sent to the penitentiary December 14, 1910, from Omaha on a fifteen-year sentence for highway robbery. He has served a previous sentence at the Missouri penitentiary. Morley is between thirty-five and forty years of age, is five feet eleven and one-fourth inches in height,



E. G. HEILMAN  
Veteran Usher Who Was Shot Down by the Mutineers.

weighs 148 pounds, of medium light complexion and has black hair and eyes. Morley's home is in Kansas City, where he has a wife now living at 530 Holmes avenue. He has other relatives living at Knoxville, Mo.

Well Armed With Modern Guns.  
The superior marksmanship of the convicts over that of the officials is due, according to some at the prison, to the kind of guns the men had. At least one of the prisoners, thought to have been Dowd, was equipped with the latest type of automatic pistol, and it was bullets from this gun that probably killed Wagner and wounded Doody in the leg. Much of the shooting by the convicts was done by Dowd, it is said.

The prison officials were equipped with short old-fashioned "bull dog" revolvers, while Gray, the second of the convicts and probably the leader, had a long single loading high powered target gun, which he used with deadly effect. Morley is said by some of the men who came out of the fray alive to have been equipped with two guns.

Alleged "Finds" During Search.  
Twenty knives and a complete kit of burglar tools are reported to have been found in the cells of prisoners at the penitentiary, when militiamen, assisted by the prison guards, conducted a thorough search of every convict's cell. Although the discovery was denied by Adjutant General Phelps, it is a matter of common gossip among the guards who conducted the search.

All Quiet Saturday.  
With a hundred militiamen, carrying guns loaded and bayoneted, on the



JOHN DOWD

walls, in the corridors and in the cell houses, all was quiet at the prison Saturday morning. All prisoners were kept in the cells and even trustees were not allowed to be about. Guardsmen paraded in front of all entrances leading to the prison, marched continually over the walls and lounged in numbers in front of the cells in the cell rooms.

# THIRD REVOLT AT PEN

TWO FORMER ATTEMPTS WERE QUICKLY CHECKED.

History of Nebraska Compiled in 1882 Gives an Interesting Account of Two Previous Attempts to Break Out.

Two previous attempts have been made to break through the walls and guard lines of the penitentiary by desperate criminals previous to the tragedy of Thursday, according to the following:

About 4 o'clock p. m., of January 17, 1875, the only notable mutiny broke out among the prisoners. The instigator of the trouble was McWaters, who succeeded in enlisting Bohanan, Worrell, McKenna, C. W. Thompson, Gerry, and Elder. Just before the afternoon round of the deputy warden, C. J. Nobes, they surprised and overpowered the guard in the workshop. On entering the shop, not knowing the state of affairs, the deputy too was seized, overcome, bound, robbed of his keys and stripped of his clothes. McWaters putting them on. Nobes was left in care of three of the mutineers, while the others, armed with iron crowbars, started for the main building. Blacking the sides of his face to represent the warden's whiskers, McWaters marched the four up to the main door in usual prison regulation style, so that the door guard thought it was the warden with a file of men and opened the door; as soon as the door swung open, they rushed up stairs, making the guard a prisoner, and proceeded to break open the armory and seize guns and ammunition. Fortunately, the deputy succeeded in loosening his cords unobserved by his captors, and suddenly seizing a hoe that lay within reach, by a few rapid blows, compelled the convicts to flee, whereupon they joined their companions in the main building.

Mr. Woodhurst, the warden, and two of the guards were in the hands of the mutineers. As the people from Lincoln began to arrive and approached within gunshot of the north windows, Mrs. Woodhurst appeared at one of them and waved her hand, crying out, "Keep back! Keep back!" Just before dark she appeared at another window, in the chapel near the main entrance, and said that the plan of the mutineers was to put the imprisoned guards before them and make a rush to escape through the board wall by the south gate. This information was doubtless the means of frustrating their plan, as it was not carried out. In both instances she quickly disappeared from the window by orders from her captors. These communications contained no solicitude for herself, but concerned only the safety of others and the responsibility she felt for the institution with which she was associated.

A little before 1 o'clock the next morning, Company I, Twenty-third United States Infantry, arrived from Omaha, under the command of Major Randall, and at once proceeded to guard the walls until morning.

Grave fears held possession of the citizens until 6 o'clock, when to the intense joy and relief of all, Mrs. Woodhurst again appeared at the southwest window of the chapel. Especially comforting was her appearance to her husband and two sons, who were out of the building at the commencement, and consequently could not go to her relief. She assured them of her safety, and that she thought the mutineers would soon surrender to her, but to her alone.

The troops, who were nearly all Indian fighters and celebrated shots in the army, in the meantime were making preparations to assault the building from the south, force open the door and face the conspirators in their fort, compelling submission at all hazards. But before the attempt was made, McWaters and the others laid aside their arms and agreed to surrender to Mrs. Woodhurst, stipulating against excessive punishment. It was a grand sight to see those desperate men, but a few hours before determined to risk life against the chance of obtaining their liberty, and willing to take a hundred lives if need be to secure a few more years of their wild liberty, now led by a single woman, who, while at their mercy, had so fearlessly demanded their submission. But without the least appearance of self-consciousness the brave woman delivered modestly her prisoners into the hands of the law. Upon the arrival of Mr. Woodhurst, McWaters said: "Warden, there is no use of mincing matters. You are an old prison officer and know how it is. I have no ill will towards you. You have treated me well, but I am like other men—I want my liberty. I thought I saw a chance to gain it and I improved it. I got the better of you at first, but the fates are against me. I lost my chance; you have now the advantage and I give up and surrender."

Thus ended one of the most exciting incidents in the history of the prison and a revolt, which for boldness of design and persistent effort in attempting its execution, has but few parallels in the annals of prison history.

The story of the heroism of Mrs. Mary A. Woodhurst is worthy of

preservation. Left alone during that night of alarm, she manifested that rare quality of command which needs but to be asserted to be obeyed. Not only did she protect herself from harm, she even forced into subjection to her will the desperate band of insurrectionary men, who feared her more than they did the officers, and who surrendered to her, while they still defied the representatives of the law.

At the time of the revolt, Mrs. Woodhurst was in her apartments, which were separated by but one room from the warden's office. When the convicts hurried to the armory, Mrs. Woodhurst's attention was attracted by the confusion. Hastening to the office, she realized that a revolt had taken place, and that the arms of the prisoners were in the hands of rebellious prisoners. As she appeared at the door, she was decisively but courteously directed to return to her own apartments.

She at once repaired to a room opening from her own, with a northern exposure, from which she could see the northwest turret. She called to the guard and directed him to alarm the guards in the other turrets, who alone were then free, and prevent them from coming to the building, as one of them was then doing. This timely movement, besides, doubtless, saving the life of the guard, precipitated matters, and materially changed the situation by the covering of the door with the carbines of the guards, thus defeating the plans of McWaters. This illustrates a presence of mind seldom met with in men, and more rarely in the gentler sex, whose lives are such as generally exclude them from startling situations. Yet it is the more commendable for its bravery. They were desperate men, and were determined to achieve their liberty at all hazards. But she faltered not, even while she realized that they had taken their lives in their hands to defeat the course of law.

Mrs. Woodhurst had, on two previous occasions, faced mobs in her husband's absence that were intent upon lynching prisoners in his charge, and in one instance saved the prisoner's life. The mobs in both cases were defeated by her prompt and fearless defense. In spite of this determination and force of character, she has nothing of masculinity about her, but has the grace of a lady, the dignity of a matron and the kindness of a woman.

## The Second Revolt.

On May 27, 1875, a second revolt headed by Convict McWaters was attempted after a note from one prisoner to another, giving details of the plan had been dropped and fallen into the hands of a guard. McWaters, again a leader in the insurrection, was killed by Guard Hugh Blaney.

The letter which had been dropped stated that the object was to first kill the keeper of the wash house, then the deputy warden, after which there was to be a general rush to gain possession of the prison. Eight men had agreed to take part in the plan and it was thought that eight more would assist.

On the date named in the letter the prisoners were kept in the cells, but the following day they were marched out to work in their regular formation as though nothing was suspected. The guards, however, had been notified to keep close watch and to shoot at the first sign of mutiny. John Geary and McWaters had asked permission to leave the main body of prisoners at work in the yard and met in the entrance way to the yard. McWaters made a threatening remark, but whether it was addressed to Guard Blaney, who was standing near, or to the other convict was not certain. Blaney, however, took no chances and raised his gun ready for an emergency.

McWaters picked up two stones, but before he could throw at the guard, Blaney fired, hitting the convict in the jaw, the bullet taking a diagonal course down through the body. McWaters did not speak again. He reeled a few feet away and dropped dead. Geary, who was making some demonstration, was easily quieted by the guard, who pointed the gun toward him. Blaney gave the general alarm by ringing the big bell in the yard, and within a few moments all the officers were out.

The prompt action of the guard and other officers quieted the mutiny and although the men were kept at work there was no further disturbance. They were marched back to their cells within a few minutes and placed under the watch of two extra guards.

## R. W. Myers Temporary Warden.

Governor Aldrich has appointed ex-Warden R. W. Myers warden of the penitentiary to serve temporarily. The appointment was made by telephone by the governor, who was now bound at Auburn. Mr. Myers is now deputy state game warden. He was warden of the penitentiary many years ago and thoroughly understands the workings of a large prison.

Steward Robb requested the governor to relieve him of the duties of acting warden because he has enough work as steward to occupy his entire time. It is understood that Mr. Myers will remain in charge of the penitentiary only for a short time.

Count Francis Luetzow, the Bohemian nobleman who visited Lincoln two weeks ago, has presented Chancellor Avery of the state university with two books, "History of Bohemia," written by himself, and an English translation of Komensky's "The Labyrinth of the World," the count being the translator.